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WASHINGTON STATE OFFICE OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

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CERB Receives Five Year Funding Plan and Tribal Eligibility

The state Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) received a five-year funding plan approved by the 2002 Legislature in HB 2425. The plan provides \$2 million in new funding for fiscal year 2003. For fiscal years 2004 through 2007, CERB will receive approximately \$4.2-4.8 million annually. The Legislature redirected Timber and Rural Natural Resource loan repayments from the Public Works Trust Fund to CERB and, beginning July 2004, will allow CERB to retain interest generated by the CERB account. The \$19-20 million package does not provide a permanent funding source for the program, but will enable CERB to continue its work until one is secured. CERB encourages new business development and expansion in areas where growth is desired through the investment of publicly-owned economic development infrastructure.

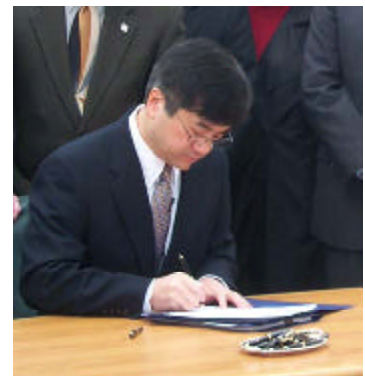
SSB 5400, making Federally recognized Indian Tribes eligible CERB applicants, was also approved by the 2002 Legislature. The bill stipulates that CERB funds shall not be provided for a project that facilitates or promotes gambling as a primary purpose.

ESSB 6347, the transportation package, will be known as Referendum 51, on the November 5, 2002 ballot. If the measure passes, CERB and the Washington State Department of Transportation will partner to approve transportation capital investments that benefit economic development in rural areas. Projected revenue from the local county portion of increased gas tax is \$30 million over ten years. The bill excludes cities with a population of more than 10,000.



March 28, 2002

Governor Gary Locke visited the Port of Longview to sign several bills that are "good for the economy" including the CERB Funding Bill and Tribal Eligibility Bill.



**ODESSA PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:
SEED RITE, INC.**

Odessa PDA in Lincoln County received conditional approval of a \$155,650 loan and a \$333,184 grant to construct a 80'x175'x22' industrial building, make site and road improvements, and extend water and sewer at the Odessa Industrial Park. The new building will be leased to Seed-Rite Inc., a grass seed marketing company specializing in the reclamation seed market. Seed-Rite will mix grass seed into a variety of blends and market them. The company will assist the regional economy by offering future options to wheat-bound farmers. Grass farming is well suited to the Odessa region and will provide farmers the opportunity to grow a profitable crop. Wheat farmers have been losing money for the past six years, because wheat prices are less than production costs. It costs wheat farmers \$3.50 to produce a bushel of wheat; selling prices have ranged between \$2.17 to \$2.77 a bushel for the past six years. Seed-Rite estimates eight new full-time jobs will be created as a result of the CERB investment.

PORT OF BREMERTON

The Port of Bremerton in Kitsap County received conditional approval for a \$432,000 loan that will be used to build a 21,332 foot industrial building leased to Avian Aeronautics, Inc. an existing tenant expanding operations. Avian Aeronautics intends to become the airport's full service Fixed Based Operator, and regional aviation parts and supply distributorship. Avian also plans to expand their business into other areas that would benefit the community. Their goal is to offer additional services such as: flight services, flight training, car rentals, concierge services, fuel sales, and Unicom. An estimated 13 new jobs will be created as a result of the Avian expansion.

**ODESSA PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:
MASTERPIECE TILE**

Odessa PDA in Lincoln County received conditional approval for a \$74,074 loan and a \$142,839 grant to construct a 50'x100' industrial building, make site and road improvements, and extend water, sewer, and electrical utilities to support the expansion of Masterpiece Tile L.L.C, a local designer tile company. Masterpiece Tile has been in business since 1994, manufacturing high-end ceramic tile that has been installed in various locations including celebrity homes, resorts, public buildings and other up-scale construction projects. The business has been operating out of several farm outbuildings on the company owners property since 1994. With the lease of the new building at the Odessa Industrial Park, Masterpiece Tile will be able to expand their operations and increase the volume of production. Masterpiece Tile estimates 15 new full-time jobs will be created as a result of the company's increased production. The new jobs are conducive to employment by both men and women and will require minimal training.

**CERB Congratulates
Newly Elected Vice-Chair
Jeff Matson**

Jeff has been serving on the Community Economic Revitalization Board for four years. He is a Commissioner for the Port of Sunnyside and fills the statutory category of Port Official with the Board.

CERB is a state economic development resource strategically focused to help business and industry create and retain jobs in partnership with local communities.

CERB provides financing for construction of public facilities that support private sector development and increased employment opportunities.

Management support is provided by the Office of Trade & Economic Development, Washington's lead agency charged with enhancing and promoting sustainable economic vitality throughout the state.

Communities with potential projects are encouraged to contact CERB staff at 360.725.4058 or by e-mail to: KateR@cted.wa.gov

